(c) The following funds have been released to the Uttar Pradesh and the Himachal Pradesh by the Central Government under the Scheme:

1. Uttar Pradesh Rs. 18.50 crore

2. Himachal Pradesh Rs. 4.50 crore.

Agreement on Chinese Accession to WTO

2447. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have signed an agreement on Chinese accession to World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the terms of the agreement; and

(c) how far it will help/boost Indo-Chinese Trade and India's Trade prospects in general ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A bilateral agreement between India and the Peoples Republic of China was signed on 22nd February, 2000 as part of the process of China's accession to the world Trade Organisation. Under this agreement China agreed to grant India tariff concessions on a number of items of substantial trade interest to us in the Chinese market. Besides, it was also agreed to take steps to lift some of the non-tariff barries to trade for products identified by us in the Chinese market. These concessions have been granted on a non-reciprocal basis and would become effective on the accession of China to the World Trade Organisation.

(c) The agreement, involving tariff concessions and steps to remove non-tariff barries to trade, is expected to help increase bilateral trade. Enhanced bilateral co-operation and the entry of China to WTO are expected to have positive impact on world trade flows in general, which may have implications for India's trade prospects as well.

Government's silence over Indo-US Agreement for Removing QRS

2448. SHRI JIBON ROY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state :—

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Chidambaram concerned over Government's silence on Indo-US

agreement for removing QRS" appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated 19th January, 2000; and

(b) what follow-up action has been taken after 1996 and 1997 negotiations with a nunmber of countries on quantitative restrictions on imports into India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) India had entered into bilateral agreements with Austrialia, New Zealand, European Union, Switzerland and with Japan (as a third party) in November, 1997 for phasing out its remaining quantitative restrictions (QRs) on imports, which had been maintained for balance of payments (BoP) purposes over a six-year period from 1-4-1997 to 31-3-2003. However, in spite of the best efforts made by India, the United States of America was not agreeable to a similar six-year phase-out period during consultations with India in 1996-97. Further, the US insisted on a number of other onerous conditions being simultaneously fulfilled by India, which were not acceptable to us.

Consequently, US filed a dispute against India in the WTO. The Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) upheld that India's QRs on imports were not justified on Balance of Payments grounds. Subsequently India and the USA reached an agreement in December, 1999 on a reasonable period of time for implementing the rulings and recommendations of the DSB under which all quantitative restrictions will be lifted by 1-4-2001.

Statutory Boards under Department of Commerce

2449. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the statutory boards and other bodies under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce;

(b) the details of any commodity Boards with the Department of Commerce;

(c) the headquarters of such Boards;

(d) what is the criteria used to determine where the headquarters of any Board should be located; and

(e) the details thereof ?